

Complements: Subject Complements

Teaching

A complement is a word or group of words that completes the meaning of the verb.

A **subject complement** is a word or group of words that follows a linking verb and renames or describes the subject. Common **linking verbs** include forms of *be*, such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *being*, and *been*; and verbs such as *appear*, *feel*, *look*, *sound*, *smell*, *seem*, and *taste*.

Both nouns and adjectives can serve as subject complements.

A predicate noun follows a linking verb and defines or renames the subject.

The dessert is chocolate cake. (The predicate noun does not include modifiers.)

SUBJECT LINKING VERB PREDICATE NOUN

A predicate adjective follows a linking verb and describes a quality of the subject.

The dessert tastes delicious after the meal. (The predicate adjective usually does not include prepositional phrases.)

SUBJECT LINKING VERB PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

Identifying Linking Verbs and Subject Complements

In the following sentences, underline the linking verbs once and the subject complements twice. On the line, write **PA** for predicate adjective or **PN** for predicate noun.

1. Food is a basic need. _____
2. The variety of foods seems incredible! _____
3. Rice is a main dish in Asia. _____
4. Fish is the "meat" of the Pacific Islands. _____
5. In Argentina, beef is quite common. _____
6. Of all prepared foods, pancakes may be the oldest. _____
7. Tortillas are corn "pancakes." _____
8. Tortillas with meat, cheese, and hot salsa taste spicy. _____
9. The Italian word for pie is *pizza*. _____
10. Pizza remains popular throughout the world. _____
11. Many fruits are favorite snacks. _____
12. Fruits, such as peaches and apples, taste sweet. _____
13. Dairy products are important in many cultures. _____
14. Milk is a source of calcium. _____
15. A good diet is important. _____

**Lesson
8****Complements: Subject Complements****More Practice****A. Identifying Types of Subject Complements**

In each of the following sentences, underline the linking verb once and the subject complement twice. Then, in the blank, write **PN** if the subject complement is a predicate noun or **PA** if it is a predicate adjective.

EXAMPLE The dessert is delicious. *PA*

1. My grandfather is a great baker. _____
2. His chocolate chip cookies are a real treat. _____
3. His brownies are famous in her neighborhood. _____
4. His specialty is homemade raisin bread. _____
5. That bread is incredibly tasty. _____
6. His blueberry muffins always look scrumptious! _____
7. His apple pies are masterpieces. _____
8. My grandfather's devil's food cake tastes heavenly! _____
9. His biscuits are amazingly light. _____
10. Unfortunately, many of his recipes remain secret. _____

B. Using Subject Complements

Complete each sentence below. First complete it with a predicate noun. Then complete it with a predicate adjective.

EXAMPLE The meal was pepperoni pizza.
The meal was extremely spicy.

1. The cook is _____
The cook is _____.
2. The main course was _____.
The main course was _____.
3. The table was _____.
The table was _____.
4. The guests were _____.
The guests were _____.

Complements: Subject Complements

Application

A. Writing Subject Complements

Rewrite each of the numbered sentences in the passage below with a new subject complement. Underline your new subject complement. If it is a predicate noun, write **PN** in parentheses after the sentence. If it is a predicate adjective, write **PA**.

- (1) Trying new foods is an adventure. (2) My favorite food is Italian.
(3) Mexican foods taste too spicy for me. (4) Frogs' legs are an exotic food.
(5) Such a dish would be interesting to eat. (6) A chef must be patient with his or her customers!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

B. Writing with Subject Complements

Imagine that you are a food critic who reviews restaurant food in different places. Write six sentences about a restaurant you recently visited. Three of the sentences should have predicate adjectives. Three should have predicate nouns.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____
